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TERMS OF REFERENCEWATCH COMMITTEE OF THE IAC
(Revised)AHIC(W)-D-15
12 April 1954

The Soviet/Communist bloc, as a potential aggressor, has the capability to initiate suddenly at any time and in a place and by methods of its own choosing, hostile action* in such strength as to gravely threaten the security of the United States. The mission of providing earliest possible warning of hostile action is the most important responsibility of the IAC to the NSC, and will be undertaken collectively by the IAC agencies as their highest priority.**

A. Name Watch Committee of the IACB. Mission

To provide earliest possible warning to the United States Government of hostile action by the USSR, or its allies, which endangers the security of the United States.

C. Functions

1. To develop and operate on a current and continuing basis an Intelligence Plan for the levying upon IAC members, and the requesting from other US agencies through appropriate channels, of the intelligence requirements necessary to provide the maximum degree of advance warning and for recommending the collection priorities of these requirements.
2. To analyze and evaluate information and intelligence, both current and cumulative, on an all-source basis, furnished by the IAC agencies relating to the imminence of hostilities, and to develop therefrom the conclusions as to:
 - a. Soviet/Communist intentions to initiate hostilities against
 - 1 the Continental United States, vital U.S. possessions, or U.S. forces abroad,
 - 2 U.S. allies or their forces,
 - 3 areas peripheral to the Soviet Orbit.

* Aggressive action by armed forces, or by organizations or support of military strategy.

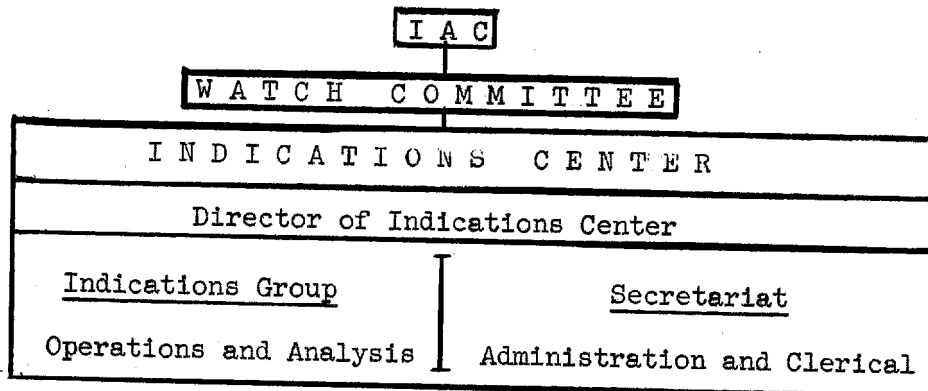
** [State dissent]

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- b. any other developments, actual or potential, susceptible of exploitation by Soviet/Communist hostile action which would jeopardize the security of the United States.
3. To report promptly their conclusions, together with significant indications, to the IAC and other appropriate recipients.
4. To make recommendations to the IAC, or member agencies thereof.
5. The Watch Committee shall not produce estimates, nor shall its mission limit, preclude, or obviate the intelligence activities of the IAC or any organization thereof. However, estimates that contribute to warning of Soviet/Communist intentions are essential in complementing the function of the Watch Committee. Against the background of estimates which periodically review all available evidence for general, comprehensive conclusions, the Watch Committee continuously evaluates all pertinent forms of incoming information or intelligence that may contain indications of imminent hostilities.

D. Composition and Organization

1. The Watch Committee will be composed of a Senior Officer representing each IAC organization, one of whom will be designated by the IAC as Chairman for a specified period.* The Committee will be supported by an Indications Center, headed by a Director to be provided by CIA and consisting of an administrative Secretariat and an Indications Group.



(Provisional T. O. & E. attached as Appendix)

2. The Watch Committee will meet on a regular schedule as determined by the Committee and on special occasions when requested by one or more of its members.

* The representative of the Office of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy, and the representative of The Joint Intelligence Group, The Joint Staff, believe the sentence should be amended as follows: "The Watch Committee will be composed of a Senior Officer representing each IAC organization. The representative of the Central Intelligence Agency will serve as permanent Chairman."

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E. Duties and Responsibilities

The Watch Committee shall discharge, or direct The Indications Center in the discharge of, the below listed duties and responsibilities.

1. Develop and operate on a current and continuing basis the Watch Committee Intelligence Plan for systematizing, energizing, and coordinating through appropriate channels the world-wide collection by US agencies of information and intelligence pertinent to the Watch Committee mission.
2. Arrange through the IAC or any member thereof for exploitation of every domestic and foreign source of information and intelligence pertinent to the Watch Committee mission.
3. Arrange with the IAC agencies for a systematic screening of all information and intelligence received by them by any means for the purpose of immediately extracting and forwarding to the Indications Center all items which may contain indications of Soviet/Communist intentions as set forth in C,2 above; an agency evaluation, where appropriate, will be forwarded as soon as possible.
4. Members will maintain close and intimate liaison with their respective parent agencies to assist them in ensuring that all pertinent information and intelligence is being made available to the Indications Center.
5. Continuously screen all pertinent information and intelligence received from all IAC agencies for indications relating to the Watch Committee mission.
6. Develop promptly an early evaluation and analysis of each indication in coordination with the intelligence agency or agencies best qualified to deal with the field of intelligence to which the indication belongs.
7. Coordinate with the individual members of the Watch Committee the selection of indications for consideration by the Committee in regular and special meetings.
8. Prepare material for use by the Watch Committee to assist in its deliberations and the formulation of its conclusions.
9. Coordinate the reproduction and dissemination of approved Watch Committee reports.

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10. Maintain in readily usable form a complete and integrated file of all available information and intelligence pertinent to the Watch Committee mission.
11. Maintain wall maps, charts and other display material which will most effectively assist in illustrating and interpreting graphically the current and cumulative indications.
12. Concurrently, but not as a substitute for current methods of analysis and evaluation, develop and test [(with outside assistance if desirable)] the application of mechanical aids and techniques to the problem on an experimental basis with a view to their eventual use in assisting effectively the Watch Committee in the accomplishment of its mission.
13. Perform such additional tasks as shall be required in the discharge of the Watch Committee mission.

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